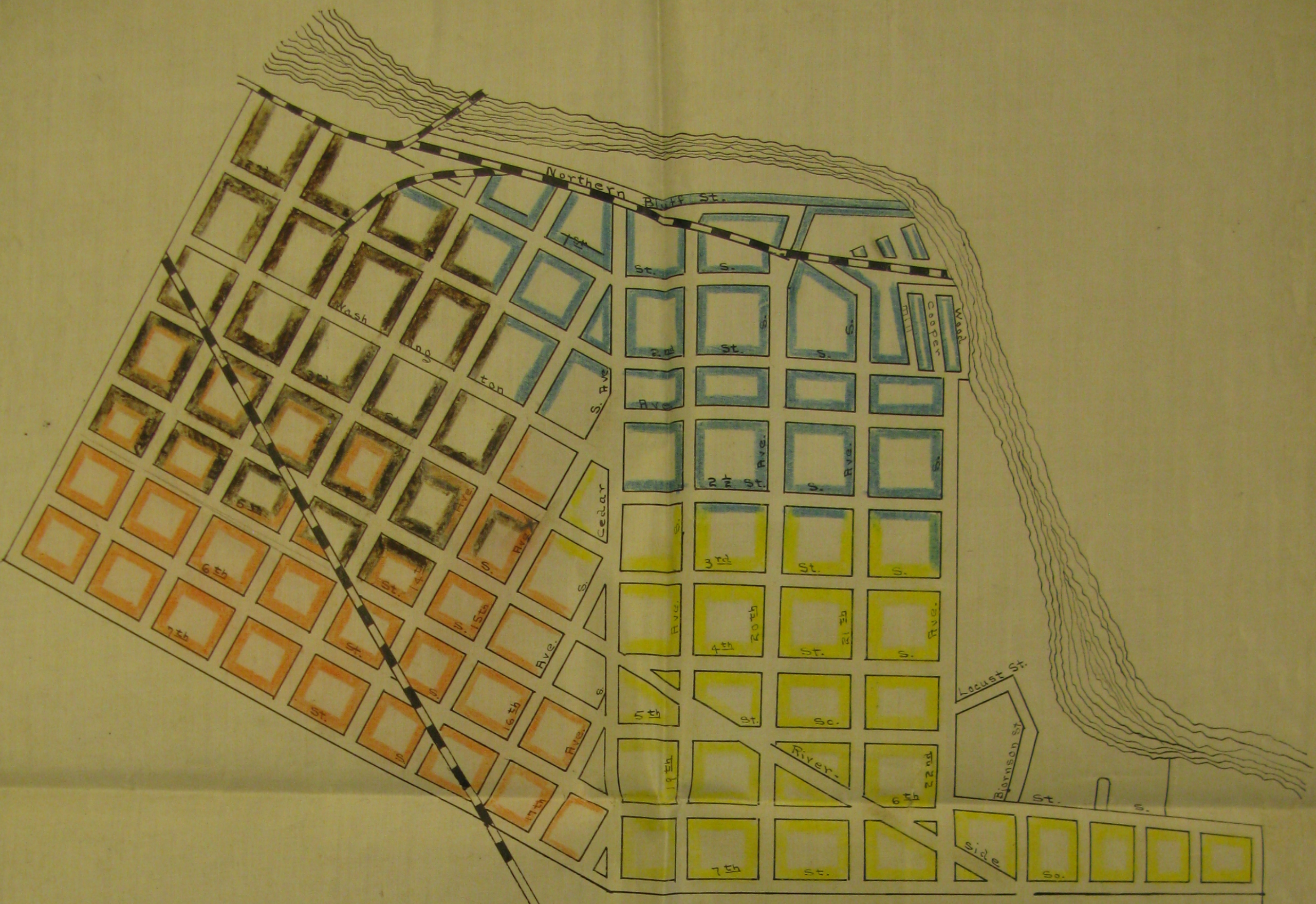


Seven Corners Library Community Study

1917 (with map)



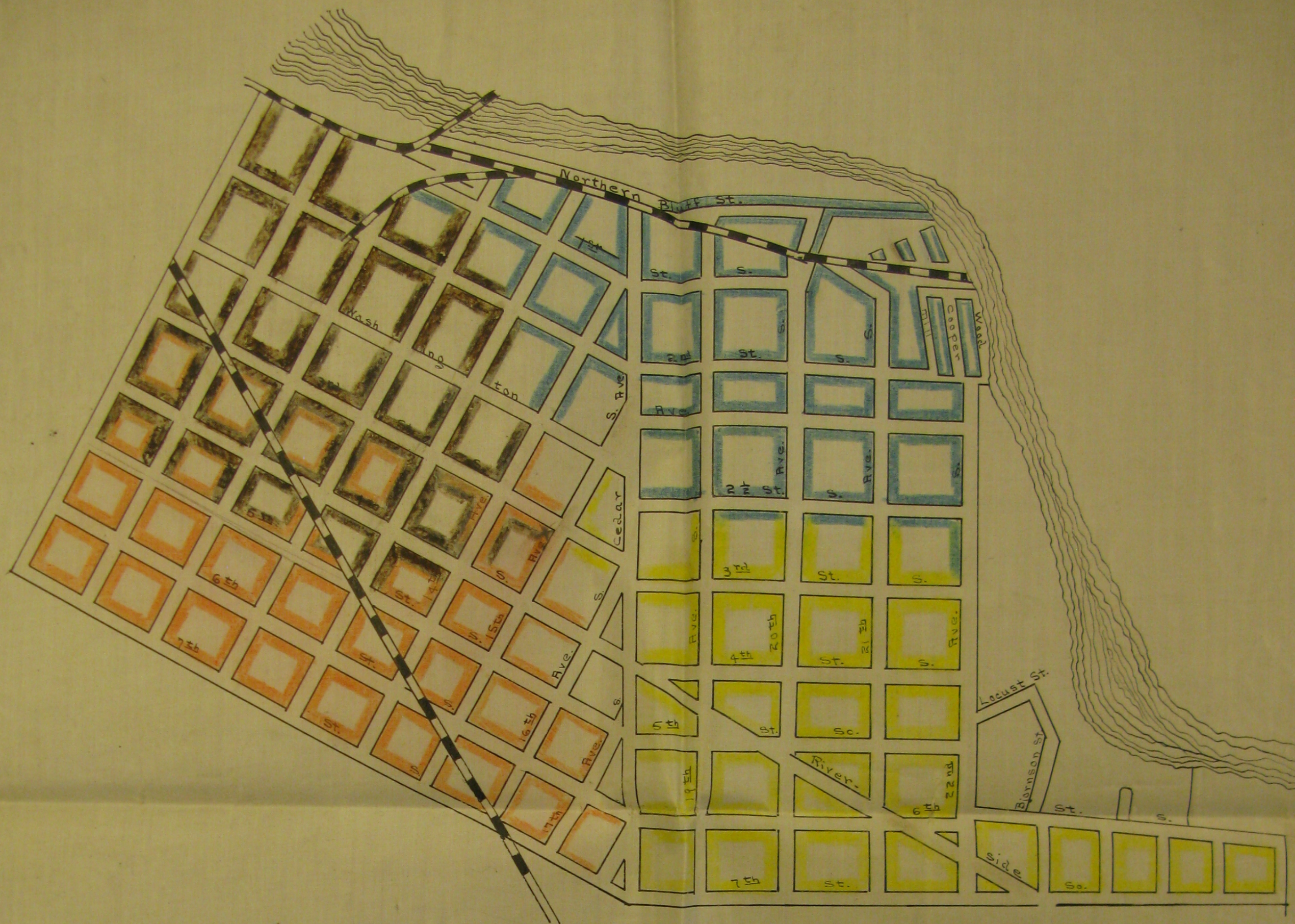
Principle Nationalities in District.

- Orange Jewish
- Yellow Scandinavian
- Brown Negro
- Blue Slavs, including Hungarian, Roumanian, Bohemian, Ruthenian, Servian, Pole, Moravian, Slovenian



Norwegian Swede Jew Negro Slav

Seven Corners District.



Principal Nationalities in District.

- Jewish
- Scandinavian
- Negro
- Slavs, including Hungarian, Roumanian, Bohemian, Ruthenian, Servian, Pole, Moravian, Slovenian

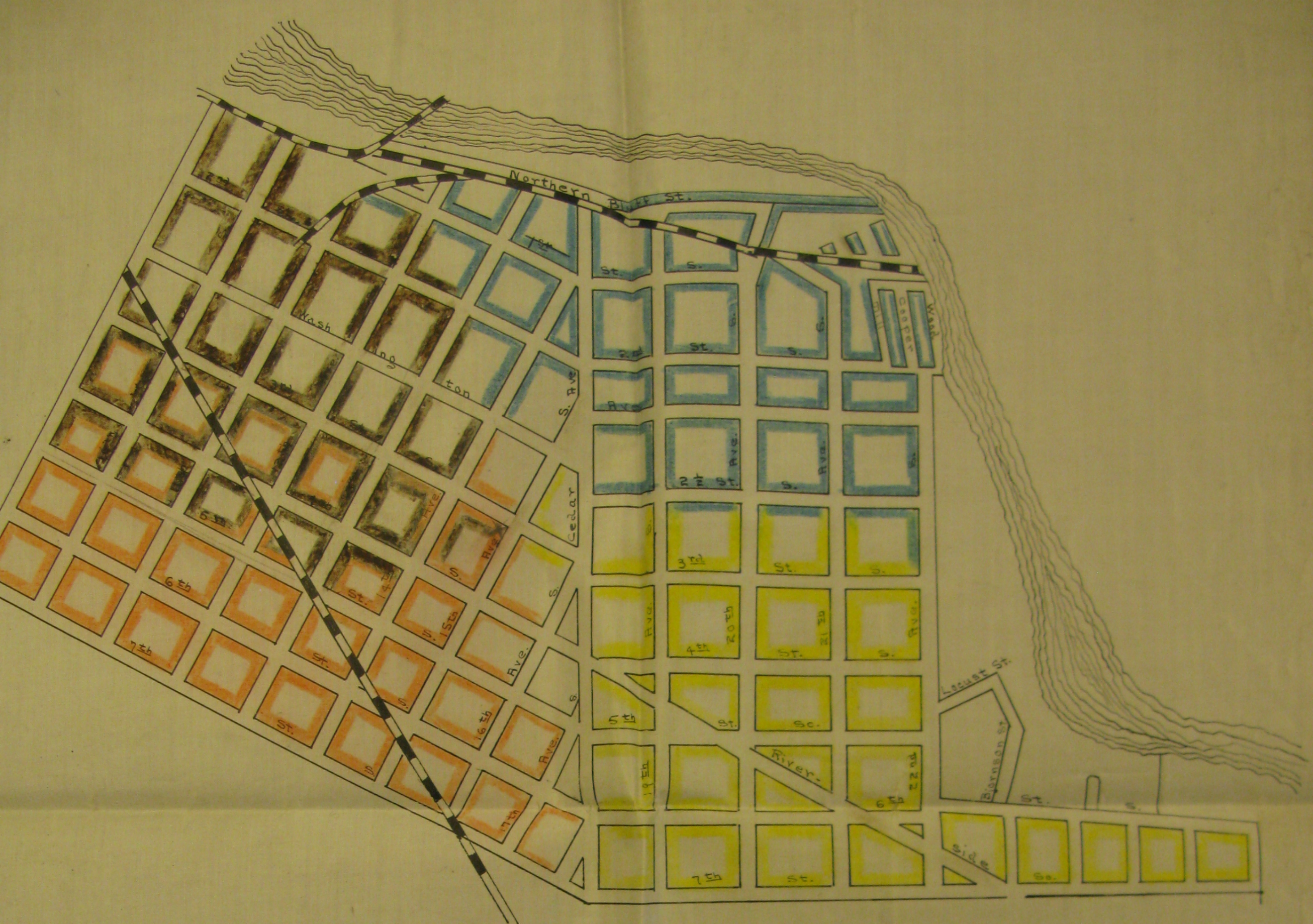


Norwegian Swede Jew Negro Slav

Seven Corners
District.

Seven Corners Library Community Study

1917 (with map)



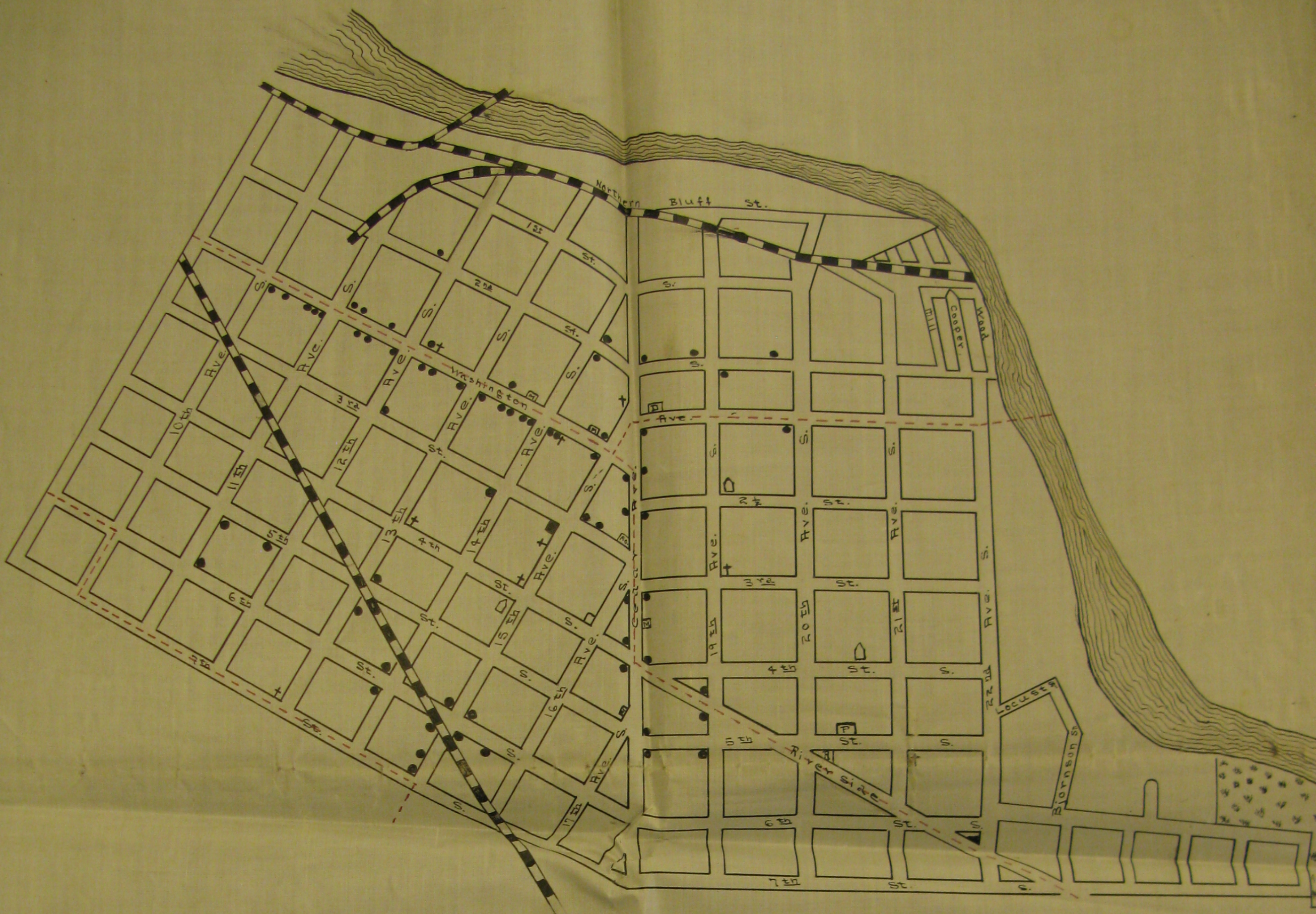
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Norwegian Swede Jew Negro Slav

Seven Corners
District.



Seven Corners Library District - 6th Ward.

- Saloons and Beer Depots
- + Church + mission
- School
- Library
- Pillsbury House
- Moving Picture Theatre

- University Dispensary
- Riverside R.O. Station
- " Chapel
- Police Station
- Municipal Baths
- Riverside Park

—+— Railroad
 - - - - - St. R. R.

A COMMUNITY STUDY
of the
SEVEN CORNERS BRANCH DISTRICT

Josephine M. McPike.

1917

GENERAL REMARKS.

In making a community study of a neighborhood, it is first necessary to take stock. Who are the people living in it, how do they live, and how - the test - do they spend their leisure. In what trades are they engaged, what is their nationality, and what are their broader social activities.

It is important to ascertain how much knowledge of the library the people have, and how much confidence they place in it. The ultimate aim is then to know the needs of the neighborhood, and to what extent and how well we are meeting them.

One who does not know the language of the people, and who is not indeed "one of them", must remain, to a large degree, an outsider, a mere onlooker at the lives of these people. It is not easy for an onlooker to get much adequate knowledge. It is doubly difficult to get at these Slovaks etc. since they lead largely individual lives, not social ones like the Jews. There are few or no clubs and organizations.

METHODS OF OBTAINING INFORMATION.

There are so many institutions of all kinds in the Sixth Ward, settlements, missions, Salvation army, etc. ad infinitum, but there seems to be little or no coordination between these various organizations. There cannot help but exist as a result much duplication of work, and not a little confusion in the minds of the inhabitants, particularly among the foreigners. In as much as the ward has been canvassed and re-canvassed, the people questioned again and again, it seemed the fairest plan not to study the district by a house to house method, but to get information in more round about ways. The conditions created by the war, too, have made the foreigner who has little knowledge of English and of American ways unduly suspicious and sometimes hostile.

Newsboys, grocers, readers coming to the library, chance acquaintances, these were the people consulted. Heads of the neighborhood institutions, the alderman of the district, shop keepers who had lived here long, told always willingly all they knew of the neighborhood. All excuses, such as overdue books etc., visits to children's parents on some pretext, were used to gain the confidence of the residents, and find out as much as possible of the district. A woman sitting on the front steps, children playing on the corners, a man raking his yard, all entered casually into the conversation with the librarian. From them, after a fashion, the flavor of the neighborhood was gained. In some places, where the block proved so fascinating as to lure on and on, the rule was broken and visits were made without excuse.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

In the immediate block of which Seven Corners Branch is a part, there are congregated three Scandinavian families, four Jewish ones, two Bohemian, four negro, one Indian, and one Roumanian family. On the corner a Scandinavian Lutheran church holds services, and each Friday night at sundown the Orthodox Jewish church next door chants its rituals into our library windows. Variety is one thing we do not lack. This can scarcely be called a block typical of the whole district however, for toward the West and the South of the neighborhood there are whole blocks of Scandinavians alone. Nevertheless this block is not a rara-avis, for there are many to be found like it within a short distance.

The district which Seven Corners Branch reaches may be said to extend from Tenth Ave. on the N. W., from Seventh St. on the South and Southwest to the river on the Northeast; a crazy shaped little bit of territory, cut into by railroads and street cars, washed continuously away by the river, and growing ever more black with the smoke of incroaching industries. A neighborhood already many flavored, and growing more strangely varied as each month passes. With the exception of the sharp incline to that part of the city known as the "Flats", this district is absolutely level. Where the factories and places of business have not covered the ground, this little section is one of the most densely populated parts of Minneapolis.

Running through the midst of this district are two main thoroughfares, Washington Ave. and Cedar Ave. On these streets shops of all description are crowded closely together. Riverside Ave. too, has many shops, though not as many as the other two. Thus in the center of the neighborhood of Seven Corners Branch, about twenty blocks are given up to purposes other than residential. In some places, of course, flats above the stores are rented for dwellings. Picture shows, pool rooms, saloons, and other distractions compete with the library for the leisure time of the neighbors. On the above mentioned streets, car lines are laid. Further to separate the people from the library, the Milwaukee and the Rock Island railroad tracks run diagonally through the district.

While not a slum district, since there is scarcely a district deserving of that name in this city, it is one in which there are lacking many of the things which our constantly rising standards are considering necessities of life. While there are no tenements, there is still felt the lack of generous space, of good air, and almost the most necessary of all, - beauty.

The survey of this ward, made by the Civic and Commerce Association in 1916, shows that in parts of the ward the housing is in a most deplorable state. Sanitation is bad, dark rooms abound, and there is much room overcrowding and fire hazard. Houses originally built for one family are now being remodeled to accommodate two and three. Boarding houses accommodating more persons than their scant room justifies, and an increasingly large number of families occupying two or three rooms, is making it more and more necessary for the men and especially the children to seek places outside of the home for spending their leisure, and of finding - strange paradox - their privacy. For the women with their endless hours of domestic duty, leisure and privacy are too often beyond their reach.

From Cedar Ave. to the river, between Seventh St. and Two and a Half St., we find houses well kept, with pleasant yards, trees, and flowers. Here live the Scandinavians who have made this their home for many years. Many of them own their own homes, and keep them in excellent condition. Those who rent take example from the others, and the whole neighborhood, while modest in tone, is pleasant to walk through and has an air of well being. In these blocks, however, each month slight changes are being made. People are anxious to sell their homes and move farther away from the smoke and dirt of the nearby factories. Here and there a Bohemian, formerly of the "Flats", takes residence, and as the Scandinavian element grows slowly smaller, the Bohemian element in like proportion increases. There are scattered among the old Scandinavian settlers, a few old Irish and German settlers. These too are gradually moving away to less densely settled districts.

On the other side of Cedar, while the Scandinavian element predominates up as far as Fourteenth Ave., the peoples from Southeast Europe are gaining in number. Between Fifteenth Ave. and Tenth Ave. the negroes are in majority, and are moving in in large numbers as the whites move out. In some blocks there is a solid negro population, while in others the black man is living, apparently peaceably, next to the white.

From Forath St. to Seventh St., between Cedar and Tenth Ave., there is a large, and in some blocks a solid element of Jewish extraction. These Jews come mostly from Russia, Austria-Hungary, and Roumania. Many of the Jews from Roumania come from the country districts, and unlike most Jews, have an instinct for gardening and farming. There are little, typical Jewish shops on Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Sts., and the "Kosher" sign is a familiar one.

From Washington Ave. to the river, and on the "Flats", there are to be found most frequently blocks like the one in which Seven Corners Branch is located. Here a house to house canvas was often made in order to find out just what nationalities lived there. Strange faces and stranger costumes greeted one. In the winter, mothers with very small infants walked barefooted in the snow, and glowed with health and vigor. In the great majority of cases English was either spoken not at all or was spoken so badly that it was difficult to understand it. Also, in many cases, people were illiterate. Some were friendly, some suspicious of spies, and some indifferent.

Northeast of Washington Ave., from Tenth Ave. So. to Twelfth Ave. So., there is a solid colored population, not of the most unimpeachable character. From Twelfth Ave. to Fifteenth Ave. the tone of the neighborhood changes constantly. Many of the people keep boarders and the boarders are of all nationalities. Mrs. Nostrom, a Swedish woman who had lived in the neighborhood for thirty years, furnished the librarian with much local gossip. She herself boards Austrians, Hungarians, Italians, Scandinavians, and Germans, is mother to them all and is their guarantor at the library. "You have my name in all nationalities," she says. She says that thirty years ago all the neighbors owned their own homes, many Germans among them. One by one they accumulated enough money to allow them to move to other and more pleasant parts of the city, and renters moved in, bringing representatives of many nations. There are found in a few blocks, Hungarians, Swedes, Norwegians, Russians, Firms, Italians, Negroes, Slovacs, Bohemians, Swiss, Irish, Ruthenians, Lettish, and Germans. Most of them are day laborers, many work at the mills. The librarian found some difficulty in getting to this neighborhood, being branded ever and anon, "Spotter", "Spy", and "Detective"! It is to be understood that foreigners are ever wary of questioners, but the suspicion of the negroes is reflected back upon themselves.

That part of the city designated as the "Flats" is one of the most picturesque in the city. Leaving Washington Ave. just at the Washington Ave. bridge, there are seventy-eight steps leading down to the "Upper Flats". Here seventy-eight steps separate the dwellers from the bustle and noise of the main thoroughfare, and allow them to remain in an atmosphere of peace, and to some degree, quiet. It is like a quaint little village nestled under the side of a cliff. Great trees shade the tiny spot, and around each house is a well tended garden and grass plot. An air of comfort too pervades the place. Pianos,

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victrolas, Brussel carpets, and lace curtains are the usual furnishings for the "front room". In many places odd heirlooms from the mother country give a touch different from the usual American home.

The river, curving doubly just at this point, and opposite green bank please the eye, and the great bridge looming high above lends a touch of romance, although it contributes more noise than might be desired. Here the people look healthy and robust, pink cheeks and brown skin prevail. One charming old woman from Bohemia, who has made her home there for years, explained that they were all "old settlers". She objected to people moving in who would not keep up their property, and who had no appreciation for the home like quality of the "Upper Flats". She evidently loved the place, as do many of the other residents, and said naively that being on the very bank of the river was just "like living on the lakes - always so cool at nights".

Since the closing of the dam, the boats land only a few hundred feet from the lady's door, and it is to be feared that the quiet of the little village will be destroyed and other disturbing changes will take place. Here live Slovacs, Bohemians and Finns. The Slovacs are in the greatest number. There are a few houses in the "Upper Flats", which unlike their fellows, are of a most disreputable appearance. These two or three are next to the river.

In the "Lower Flats" a far different condition has arisen. The ground is many feet lower than that of the "Upper Flats", in fact it is so near the water's edge that a rise of one foot brings the water into the very kitchens of some of the houses. Each spring the dwellers there, have, on a moment's notice, had to move their families and their household effects to higher and safer ground. During some of the sudden rises the water has risen a foot an hour for many hours, and for days the houses have been under water. The inhabitants on the lower streets take their possessions and themselves to the street above, and if the water continues to rise to too great a height they in their turn seek higher ground. For several years there was great uncertainty about the exact height of the water level when the new dam would be installed. It was thought it would rise above the floors of the huts on the river's edge. In some cases no rents have been charged and the inhabitants have been satisfied to flee before the water. Now it appears that the river level is still below that of the floors, and in all probability we shall still have our "Lower Flats" until they are done away with by the city.

There is much poverty and suffering in these "Lower Flats". Most of the homes so squalid that the word home used in their connection is a bitter irony, are wretchedly built shanties. They are damp, ill-lighted, and scarcely any protection from the cold. Last winter especially there was much suffering among the people there. The streets are not made, in fact they are mere crooked alleys, not lighted at nights, and there is no sewage.

The people living on these "Lower Flats" are, with the exception of one Bohemian family, all Slovaks. Most of them come from Liptov, Hungary. They are almost without exception, illiterate. In their own country the intolerant Magyar government forbade the teaching of Bohemian in the schools; the Bohemians, unwilling to learn the Magyar language, went untaught.

Mr. Hankowski, a grocer on Twentieth and Washington Aves., himself a Slovak, is much interested in the Slovaks of the neighborhood. He says that while they cannot read and write, many of his people can understand Slovak, Bohemian, Polish, and Russian, but cannot understand Slovene or Lithuanian. The Slovaks and Bohemians are very closely related. Bohemian readers say that while it is somewhat difficult to understand the spoken Slovak, they understand the written Slovak quite readily. Prof. T. G. Masaryk of the Czech University of Prague says there is not so much difference of language among the Slav nations as among the Latin nations. Prof. Masaryk says in another place, "The Slavs are much more closely united from the linguistic and intellectual point of view than the various groups of other races are with one another."

Most of the Slovaks are Catholics, some are free thinkers, and some of them are Protestants, these latter mostly Baptists.

The Slovaks in this neighborhood, unlike many Bohemians, do not have a local Sokol, though some few attend the Sokol in N. E. Minneapolis. A prominent Slovak in the neighborhood maintains that the Slovaks, a most hard working people in Europe, come over to America, and with the increased money they earn they have no proportionately increased capacity for spending their money and leisure time. Thus many of them go to the saloons. Inebriety is common among them, unfortunately too common for the happiness and welfare of their families. The complex conditions of the new life, unemployment, sickness, and the dire rising of the river, bring about in many cases a desperation, resulting only too often in utter intemperance and cruelty.

Doubtless it will be but a short time before the character of this whole vicinity is changed. The opening of Minneapolis as a river port will remove the dwellings and will bring in their stead warehouses, wharves, etc. One more part of this district, but a section busy with commerce and industry.

POPULATION.

The U.S. Census for 1910 credits the Sixth Ward with 15,466 persons, which is about 5 per cent of the population of the whole city. Our latest figures, obtained from the mayor's office and which are not so exact as the official census but are the most accurate we have for recent date, give as the population of the ward 15,615. This is about 4 per cent of the total municipal count. So, during seven years, we have an increase of 149 persons, or an average of seven persons a year. In 1910 the males of voting age were 41 per cent, the women and children, including males under 21, only 59 per cent. In these seven years there has been a decrease in the normal population, and whatever increase has taken place is due to the influx of shifting adult population without families. The enrollment in the public schools shows that there are 500 less children than there were enrolled in the same schools in 1900. These facts all point to the conclusion that our reading element is being gradually reduced.

It is very difficult indeed to get an accurate account of the people in this district since there is such a fluid element. It is estimated that the floating population of the Sixth Ward is from 30 to 35 per cent. There are so many nationalities and such unusual conditions that statistics from this ward ought to be very interesting. The schools have no figures concerning nationalities and the mayor's office was able only to furnish us with the total count. I shall not, therefore, attempt to make a comparison of the proportionate representatives of different nations. Lester F. Ward says in his "Applied Sociology", "Statistics are akin to mathematics and the alleged proofs from them are often worse than no proof at all. Their use in cases where they are inadequate is simply pedantic."

There are to be found in the many rooming houses scattered in the east and southeast of this district large numbers of itinerant workers, and also, of itinerant idlers. Their numbers vary with the seasons. Summer finds them in the highways and at work in the agricultural districts. They are mostly unskilled laborers, and the short seasons in the fields, and the uneven employment in the factories, makes for many of these men the idea of a permanent home out of the question. Ever and anon some of the men come to Minneapolis for a few weeks work, and are shortly away to the "road" until their scant finances are exhausted. In the winter the rigors of this climate force them to seek shelter. It is during the cold months that the boarding houses are filled to overflowing, and every seat in the library reading room is taken.

In some of these overcrowded rooming houses there are to be found most deplorable social conditions. As many beds as possible are put into the rooms, and the men sleeping together often do not know the names of their bedfellows. This is brought to light in registering foreigners, most often in the night schools. A man will give as his guarantor "Joe". "Joe who?" is asked. He shrugs his shoulders at such unreasonable desire for exactness, and says, "Joe, the man I sleep with". The given name suffices to indicate to the other members of the household whom they mean, and that is all they seem to feel necessary. The Slovaks are probably in the majority of those to be found in these places, though in one boarding house kept by a Swedish woman, there were under one roof, Hungarians, Germans, Roumanians, Swedes, Norwegians, and Italians. This particular woman, however, was of a disposition to make any number of nationalities live peaceably together.

Unemployment, poverty, and bad housing, are also big factors to be taken into account when considering the great number of moves a year that take place around Seven Corners.

SCHOOLS.

Three public schools take care of the Sixth Ward's children; Jackson, Clay, and Peabody. The Clay school has 17 rooms, including a kindergarten and the first 6 grades. All the children in the ward in the fifth and sixth grades go to the Clay. The Jackson school has 13 regular rooms and 2 special rooms for the deaf children. They have a kindergarten, the first four grades, and the exclusive care of the seventh and eighth grades. All the children from these schools "graduate" from the Jackson. The Peabody school has 8 rooms; they have the first three grades and special classes for subnormal children.

Owing to the special conditions to be found in this neighborhood these three schools have included in their courses special features to fit the neighborhood. At Jackson school they are taking care of the deaf children from all over the city, and are doing remarkable work in lip reading. At the Clay, Miss Samuelson, the school nurse, has undertaken beside her regular work a lunch room. Here breakfasts and luncheons are served to the children who might otherwise go without. An attractive and wholesome meal is served for one cent, or without charge, if Miss Samuelson, who is familiar with all the families, thinks it justified. About 100 children have their meals in this room. This means very much to the mother who must leave her home early to get to work, and for the children who come from the most poverty stricken families.

At Peabody school the second floor is given over to industrial work. The children who do not progress in regular studies, and who are subnormal, are set to work at weaving, carpentry, cooking etc. It is a most interesting school and the results are most satisfying. Mr. Frank Forsell is principal of all three schools.

Mr. Forsell and the teachers of these three schools, the Jackson and the Clay particularly, have worked most satisfactorily with the Seven Corners Branch. The teachers are regular users of the library and at all times urge the children to come to the branch. Indeed some of the teachers have said to the children that they did not want children in the class who had no library cards. They feel that in this neighborhood, where so few of the children own books of their own, that the "library habit" is a necessary one if they are to form a reading habit at all.

All of the teachers have been urged to let the library know what their courses are going to be, and what the outside reading, so that we may be prepared for rushes. Often we are notified of books and material that will be needed, but often also the teacher neglects or forgets, and the rush is upon us before we realize it. In the upper grades we issue to some of the teachers a small collection of books for two weeks, and these books the teacher either reads aloud from or passes around the room during one period. Book reviews are required frequently, and short story synopsis', and various other devices to get the child into the habit of coming to the library and really using it. The library staff are appointed judges in composition contests, and often we are the recipients of

"thank you" notes from each member of a whole class. We also have special invitations to all entertainments etc., and whenever possible one of the "S" staff attends.

Registration was taken this fall in all three schools. The change made from the spring to the fall was felt to be a normal one. All rooms were visited but the two lowest grades and the deaf rooms, although some of these pupils have cards. At Jackson, at the time of our visits there, every child in the school but one had a library card, and at the Clay school every child but three. These four children had no cards because their parents forbade it. The parents of these children were visited, but three remained obdurate.

Since the beginning of school this fall the number of registrations from Jackson school were 54, from Clay were 101, and from Peabody were 35. As new children are enrolled the teachers send them over to the library.

There were enrolled at the Jackson school this year 484 children. One room, owing to the decreased number of children, was closed this year. Two years ago also a room was closed. This is significant. At the Jackson they are noticing the large increase of Negro children. 741 children were enrolled at the Clay and 180 at the Peabody, 40 of whom are "special" pupils. A comparison of the total admissions to these three schools since 1904 is startling. They are as follows:

1904-1905.....2216

1909-1910.....1895

1914-1915.....1575

Sept. 1917.....1405

There are then this year 811 children less than there were in 1904, or hardly two-thirds as many.

Washington school, which is not in our district, was visited this year and registration taken. At this school children were not urged to come to Seven Corners, since a dangerous railroad crossing divides the school and the branch, but were rather sent to the branch or station which they lived nearest. But 30 of the children registered brought their cards to Seven Corners Branch.

Motley school, situated at Oak St. and Washington Ave. S. E., is just across from Sta. 15. It includes from the first to the eighth grade. The registration was taken in the Motley as in the others, from the third grade through the eighth. The branch staff does not feel the same satisfaction and confidence in issuing library cards at Motley school that it feels when visiting the three schools nearest Seven Corners. The collection of children's books at Sta. 15 is so small in comparison with the number using it, that it seems a somewhat

ubious thing to urge more children to register. The collection of children's books was increased this year as much as the slender resources of "S" would allow. The Principal and teachers were all most cordial and are anxious for the children to have cards. 65 library cards were issued to the Motley pupils this fall.

St. Elizabeth's Parochial School is situated on the outskirts of our district, at 8th St. and 15 Ave. So. Many of the children pass this branch daily and a fair number use it. Sister Patrizia is at the head of the school. She has lately come from New York and has been reorganizing the school somewhat. The branch librarian and children's librarian visited her, and suggested the regular use of the "S" branch. Sister Patrizia seemed anxious to have the children register. She asked us, however, to wait for a time more convenient to her. We have not yet registered the children but expect to at an early date.

The students from South High School who live around Seven Corners come to this branch regularly. The co-operation with the school is not entirely satisfactory. We have the old high school list of supplementary reading, which Miss Barquist has checked for us. From this we have filled a section for the use of the high school students and set aside a table for them. The new list is not yet out, but is being revised. Setting aside the section for the students is a trial arrangement. If it does not meet with satisfaction we shall abandon it. We have asked the librarian and teachers of the high school to inform us of books that they will require in the near future, so we may be prepared for rushes.

Besides the schools mentioned, there are two other schools whose children stray into the branch at intervals. These are a few children from the Adams school, and a few from the open-air school across the river. The total registration of school children since September has been 313.

Night Schools.

It was a great disappointment both to the schools and to the library branch when it was announced that it was impossible to continue the night classes at Jackson school. So many of the young men and women attending the school passed Seven Corners on their way back and forth, and many of them came in.

Of the 217 pupils enrolled during the year only a small per cent of them attended regularly. In March, when we took registration, there were in attendance only 79 pupils. Of this number, there were only a few who did not take out library cards. Those few said they had little or no time for reading. One of two girls doing general housework felt that school was justified, but that the library was not necessary.

Simple, explicit directions were given each beginner as to how to find the library, and concerning the rules thereof. A shelf of books for "beginners in English" is always kept near the door, and everything was done to make it as easy as possible. Since public institutions sometimes overawe foreigners, they are glad to take a book from the rack, slip past the desk and unobtrusively into some corner where they can read without attracting attention to themselves.

Miss Wright, principal of the Jackson night school, has supplied us with the following list, which shows the nationalities represented and the occupations in which the pupils were engaged.

<u>Nationality represented</u>		<u>Occupation of pupil</u>	
Ameriaan	1	Labor	9
American-negro	1	Milling	2
Austro-Hungarian	30	Ware-house	1
Chinese	2	Millinery	1
Danish	5	Car-repairing	7
Finnish	1	Machinist	4
German	3	Stone mason	1
Greek	8	Home-keeping	2
Icelandic	1	Unemployed	5
Italian	3	Janitor	1
Lithuanian	2	Plastering	1
Norwegian	46	Carpenter	7
Polish	8	Blacksmithing	1
Roumanian	4	Housework	3
Russian	37	Shipping work	1
Swedish	65	Dining room "	1
Ukranian	1	Sack sewing	2
		Baker	1
		Press feeding	1
		Oiling	1
		Moulder	1
		Truckman	1
		Barber	1
		Packer	1
		Engineer	1
		Manufacturing	2
		Plumbing	1
		Gas worker	1

OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

Augsburg Seminary.

Augsburg Seminary, a Norwegian Lutheran school, located at 8th St. and 21st Ave. So. is well known among the Norwegians in the city and in the state. It includes both academy and college, and the regular college course is as well attended as the theological one. Many of the classes are in Norwegian. Like all colleges in the country this year, the attendance at Augsburg falls short of that of the average year. But 100 students entered the classes this fall.

Many of the students are out of town boys. Some of them coming to Seven Corners use a public library for the first time and are somewhat diffident. These boys take some time before they use a library readily, and it often takes some persuasion before they will look around the room. As a rule, however, the Augsburg pupils use Seven Corners fairly regularly and depend upon us for much of their outside reading.

Bible Institute and Academy.

The Bible Institute and Academy, a Norwegian Evangelical institution, is located at 243 - 20th Ave. So. Its chief object is to encourage missionary study and offer training for Christian workers. There is included also an academic course. The seminary course is in English, but there are required and elective subjects in English. In 1916-17 about 40 students attended classes at the Bible Institute, but this year there are not more than 25, most of whom are over 21 years of age.

The faculty, and consequently the students, had not been in the habit of coming to Seven Corners until last spring. The librarian visited the school, and though there was not an immediate response, the members of the faculty and the students have been coming to the branch one by one. Once having taken out a card they prove to be good readers.

Minnesota College.

Minnesota College, at Delaware and Harvard Sts. S.E. in the district of Station 15, is supported by the Swedish Lutherans of the state. Some of the students used Station 15, but seemed discouraged at normal station results. A visit was made to the college and Seven Corners branch brought to the attention of the faculty there. A small per cent of the students there find it convenient to take books from this branch. There are about 250 young men and women in attendance at the college.

There is a small library at the college of some

1500 books. Most of these books, however, are dead wood, and not all of them catalogued. The librarian, who is also a busy instructor, says that an average of 3 books a day are issued. He said it would be of great advantage to the pupils if they would get in the habit of using Seven Corners, and is constantly bringing the branch to their attention.

CHURCHES AND MISSIONS.

There is a large number of churches and missions in this district, greater in number than in activities it is to be feared. There are six Swedish churches, one Norwegian one, one Bohemian one. There are two Slovak missions, two Norwegian ones, one colored one. Besides this there is the Scandinavian branch of the Salvation Army.

The heads of the churches in some cases do not live near their church, and indeed in some cases do not live in the neighborhood at all.

In some instances the pastors of the churches were indifferent to the library and gave no encouragement. Others assured the librarian they were willing to have their people come to the library, and avail themselves of all opportunities. As many pastors as possible were visited, and they were asked to present to their people the advantages offered by the branch. Their attention was called to the auditorium and club rooms, suggestions for new books solicited etc. Bulletins were hung where they were wanted. No aggressive advertising was done, rather, suggestions of service. We offered to tell stories at any time and to give lists, etc. At times the existence of the Seven Corners branch was news to persons living but a few blocks away.

Mr. F. L. Anderson, of the Swedish Angarius Church at 19th Ave. and 5th St. So., was very much interested in the library and had heretofore known nothing of it. He said most of the services and sermons in his church were in Swedish, and for that reason he had not as many young people use the church as he could wish. He thought that in the fall he would like to use the club rooms here, for social activities of a mild sort, to bring his young people together. The adults, he said, read little, and when they did not read their own books they usually went to the Franklin Branch. He assured us he would do all he could to bring the library to the notice of the people.

The attitude of the Bohemian priest was quite a different one. The librarian called several times before he had leisure to talk. He then said that his people were too busy to read, or that they were a poor people and not able to

Not only did he not encourage the librarian, but he gave the impression that he considered libraries not above suspicion, and reading rather a detriment to God-fearing people.

The missions are open usually two or three evenings a week. The Slovak Mission at 2009 Washington Ave. So. meets two nights a week, and has its small room well crowded. One will find at their meeting about 50 men and 20 women. It quite takes the place of a church. The people who attend there are almost all from the lower flats, and many of them do not speak English. Stephen Herban is the Slovak minister.

The Children's Mission in 1407 Washington Ave. So. has in connection with its mission services an employment bureau and a small day nursery.

There is a Scandinavian branch of the Salvation Army on 6th St. between 17th and 18th Ave. So. They have meetings each evening and all day Sunday which about 200 persons attend. In connection with this is a small circulating library of religious books, most of which are Scandinavian, and the remainder English.

Below is a list of the churches and missions in this district:

Swedish ST. Angarius Church, (Episcopal), 19th Ave. and 5th St. So.
Augustana Lutheran Church, (Swedish), 7th St. and 11th Ave. So.
Church of Our Lady, (Bohemian Catholic),
First Swedish M. E. Church, 13th Ave. and 7th St. So.
Swedish Temple, 10th Ave. and 7th St. So.
Ebenezer Norwegian Lutheran Church, 19th Ave. and 3rd St. So.
Children's Gospel Mission, 1407 Washington Ave. So.
Free Mission Church, (Swedish), 12th Ave. and 7th St. So.
Skandinavian Peace Mission, 1210 Washington Ave. So.
Pentecostal People's Christian Assembly, (Colored), 1204 Washington Ave. So.
Baptist Slovak Mission, 2¹/₂ St. So. and 20th Ave.
Slovak Mission, 2009 Washington Ave. So.

RECREATION

Recreation for men.

With the houses of industry constantly creeping up upon us from the river, the demand for unskilled labor growing each year greater, it is only reasonable to conclude that the district will become each year more congested and the space more precious. It is also reasonable to conclude that the space for living rooms in the homes and rooming houses will become more and more a minus quantity. Just so much more will the men and children be forced out of their homes in their hours of leisure. The logical places for these men and children to go are the saloons, the poolrooms, the picture shows, and the library. It is then our obvious business to make our library more attractive than its competitors, To offer as far as possible the entertainment afforded in the above mentioned places, and to give in addition something which is not found there.

What then do the saloons, poolrooms and the picture shows offer? First and foremost there is a congenial companionship, a place where the desire to meet and commune with our fellows is in a measure satisfied. When long hours of wearisome labor have left the bodies and minds of the men exhausted, the saloons can satisfy one of the few desires they have had time in their cramped lives to develop. Also there is warmth, light, and lack of restraint. Here one meets on a level with his companions, there is no atmosphere of looking down, nor any desire to uplift the poor tired creature. It is certainly possible that the drinking is done merely for the sake of other attractions. Certainly we like to feel that clean amusements and habits of spending leisure time will sooner or later draw from the unclean. The library should, and indeed does, satisfy the desires of many of these men.

The library is more or less unique among institutions. There is to be found there a certain eclectic quality, a spontaneity, which in turn calls out a spontaneous mood in the habitués. Here on the wall are the minds of all nations, and views on all phases of life. Any mood can be satisfied. It is only for the reader to indicate his desire and a responsive echo is to be found. Is he serious, meditative, iconoclastic, or religious? His whim can be satisfied. His jovial moods do not come back to him from a blank wall. This is then the thing we can offer that the saloons and poolrooms cannot. We feel that the readers should be encouraged to come to the desk with their "finds", to talk them over and not to be repulsed. One with glee brings up the quaint inventions shown in Popular Science, another comes to discuss Ibsen, and still another to find out our opinion on single tax. If, eventually, we can make all our readers feel free to come to the desk and chat, then we are indeed running in successful competition with the saloons and poolrooms.

The duties of Seven Corners Branch are not simple,

but manifold and complex. It has evolved upon the branch to take in turn the place of library, study room, living room, play room, and nursery; nay, not in turn, but at one and the same time. In a one room branch it is not as easy to make the room as free and comfortable as the saloon, and at the same time as quiet as a study room. The men, women, and older children who come seriously to read, are disturbed by the exuberance of the children, who have spent the greater part of their day in discipline in the schools, and who come to the library for relaxation. Nor is it fair to keep the children absolutely quiet. We have effected a sort of compromise in this matter; talking in low tones is permitted in the children's room, and even in the adult room if it disturbs no one. In the winter the children who cannot keep their voices lowered are referred to the playroom. In the summer months, when the playroom is closed, the summer porch is often used for purposes other than reading. Little children are allowed to go there to read plays aloud, or to play games. At other times students are permitted to study aloud together. We have no hard and fast rules that are to be broken under no circumstances. Rather do we fit the matter to the exigencies of the case. Yet, as in all cases of compromise, there is not entire satisfaction on either side. There is need for a constant readjustment. The children grow too noisy for the adults, and they in their turn feel that the constraint put upon them is hard to bear. On both sides, the fact that it is a "public library" seems to cover a multitude of sins. A glass partition between the children's room and the desk might simplify matters to some degree.

It is to be hoped that rooms in the basement will be used more frequently as time passes for club rooms. There is one small room which is not used in the evenings for the boys' recreation, nor, with the exception of Saturday afternoons, in the daytime. The large room could be used during the day and on Sunday evenings. These rooms have been called to the attention of different persons and organizations, and their use put at their disposal. They have been used, but they have by no means been used to the extent of their capacity. Pillsbury House and Riverside Chapel are taking care of many organizations. There are still many who might prefer meeting in a publicly owned building. We are, of course, anxious not to duplicate the work of Pillsbury House and Riverside Chapel, but to supplement it.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

When the people of this neighborhood, and particularly the young people come together for meetings of any sort, oftener than for any other purpose it is to dance. The following halls are used almost exclusively for dancing:

South Side Auditorium, 12th Av. and 3d. St. So.

Mozart Hall, 1417 Washington Av. So.

Dania Hall, 5th St. So. and Cedar Av.

K.P. Hall, Seven Corners

Six Cornered Hall, 9th St. and 19th Av. So.

In addition to these halls are two halls just outside of our district which draw many of our young people; they are, the Swedish Brothers Hall at 8th Av. and 4th St. So., and the New Viking Hall at 8th Av. So and 4th St. Saloons are either in direct connection or closely situated to all of these halls. To offset the pernicious influences of these places, where social conditions are most undesirable, Pillsbury House has organized classes and Saturday evening dances. These Saturday evening dances are open to all at a charge of ten cents both to men and to women. These dances, where they can have good music and good floor, are well attended.

On next Sunday, December the 16th, there is going to be held the first of a series of interesting meetings at the Mozart Hall. A branch of the Slovak League of America is going to hold its initial meeting. This is a national organization, working with the government in an attempt to Americanize the Slovaks, and to present to them the government's attitude in this present war. There are already 60 members in this southeast branch. This organization is pregnant with promise of better things for the Slovaks. The organization is hoping to draw the Slovaks out of themselves, awaken in them a social consciousness, and begin the process of making real Americans of them. Seven Corners Branch is hoping that we may take our part in this process.

The Sixth Ward Equality League, composed of men of this ward, who are interested in its political life, meets at Pillsbury House. This is an organization of several years standing. Last year they were disorganized, but this year they are meeting again under the leadership of Mr. Forssell. The Women's Welfare League also meets at Pillsbury House. This League, however, is not made up of women exclusively from this district, in fact, most of the women come from other parts of the city. Their aim is a philanthropic one. They relieve individual cases of distress, do sewing for the poor, and do such charitable acts from time to time as seems to them fitting.

It might be well to mention in this connection a class the Naturalization Information Bureau is beginning at this branch. The object of the class is to teach English to the foreigners, and most important at present, Americanism. The class is in charge of Mr. S. Friedman, and is being extensively advertised.

Playgrounds.

The play places for the young and old around Seven Corners are too seldom in the bright, clean out-of-doors. The streets, with their dangers of traffic, dirt, and questionable associations, furnish the playground for many of the children. There are small school playgrounds around Clay, Jackson, and Peabody schools. At these playgrounds the younger children are urged to come rather than the older ones. There is some trouble with the boys in gangs and it is felt that the younger children should be preferred. Some of the older boys go for a short time during the day. Riverside Park is also in hailing distance for some of the children but too far for many of them. It is the only one of the playgrounds that has green grass and trees. The others are covered with cinders. It is felt by all the forward members of the community that some constructive work should be done to occupy the time of the boys and girls. This problem is a particularly serious one for the boys and girls from 15 to 20 years. The boys gather in gangs, and let the mass spirit do what it will with their energies. One gang in particular has been loafing about the neighborhood for three or four years now, in the daytime as well as the night. The habit of idleness is fast growing a part of their character.

The library steps have been a favorite gathering place, much to the annoyance of the people coming to read. The women and girls have been especially bothered. Just sending them from the steps has only been sufficient to drive the boys across the street or within a short distance from the branch. It has not been pleasant sending the boys away, since it means that the saloons or poolrooms will be their next place of refuge. The police have been of little service in keeping the place clear, nor have we felt that we wanted more of their help than was necessary. It has been the policy of the branch librarian and her assistants to get the boys into the library whenever possible, and once having gotten them into the library, making them understand that the library was not "the saloon minus the bar" that they would like to believe it. They are slowly getting into the habit of reading or at least looking at pictures.

In the early fall a new development took place in this matter. The Sixth Ward Equality League has felt that it is not only the business of the library staff to keep the block cleared of loafers, but that some of that duty evolved on the members of the ward. They have been sending members down to see what could be done. Thus far the actual work has been done

by the library staff, but the cooperation of the Sixth Ward Equality Club has not been without moral effect.

Pillsbury House and Riverside Chapel each do their share in taking care of a part of the children. But as is the case with philanthropic institutions, there is a certain element which they seldom reach. The better element, which are not so much in need of care, are usually found there. Girls and women are to be found in large numbers in each of these institutions, but the men and older boys do not come so gladly. There is a certain scorn for "charity", no matter how liberal the institution. A municipal institution is the logical place for these people.

Around Seven Corners particularly the people are beginning to believe it is their right to own their places to play in. Many of the men are socialists and feel that it is not pleasant being given that which they logically should command as their own. For this reason the library reaches an element far harder to deal with as far as discipline is concerned than do either Pillsbury House or Riverside Chapel. When older boys are asked to leave the building as the result of too boisterous behavior, they are not unlikely to demand, "Isn't it just as much mine as yours?" They are always told that most assuredly it is theirs, and for that very reason demands just that much more care and respect. In as much as the Seven Corners Branch is the one institution in our neighborhood reaching these boys and men, we are most anxious that we should be able to hold them.

The Recreation Room.

It was due to the above conditions that the recreation room in Seven Corners Branch came into being. Pillsbury House tried the experiment of turning their gymnasium over to the general public. The result was one with which they could not cope, and give the regular amount of attention to their classes and teams etc. As a result, Miss Grace Stevens, at that time the branch librarian, together with Mr. Arthur Taylor, and Mr. Frank Berry of the Park Department, petitioned that the basement of the branch be given up to recreation room for the boys.

The recreation room was opened in January 1916 with much jubilation. The agreement was that the Park Department was to furnish the apparatus and one assistant, Pillsbury House was to furnish one assistant, and the library was to supply a third. The branch librarian was to be in general supervision. It was an experiment, and one watched with much eagerness by the city in general and Seven Corners Branch in particular. As

with all experiments, the thing gradually took form, adding here and excluding there, until in the year 1917 the recreation room was a recognized institution. Pillsbury House no longer supplies an assistant. The object of the recreation room is to have a general playroom for all the boys in the neighborhood, bad behavior only excluding them. Thus we supplement the teams and organized games of Pillsbury House. Each child is kept busy playing at some game, and all games go on at the same time. There has always been a large attendance, and no serious disturbances. The boys under 16 stay until quarter to nine, and those over remain until ten.

The Cave.

Another play place for a select few in the neighborhood is one filled with great mystery. It is the great cave in the bluff below 2¹/₂ St. This cave has many rooms, one leading into another, damp and black as all caves are. It is not to be recommended however, since crap games which are the popular diversions are at times more innocent than others. It is generally rumored by the boys that it is the headquarters of a gang of thieves.

Pillsbury House.

Pillsbury House is probably the best known institution in the Sixth Ward. With its many and varied interests, and its broad policy, it reaches some 2000 to 2500 persons per week, counting duplicates. Besides the large brick main building there is a two story frame annex. It is located at 320 - 16th Ave. So. The main building houses the auditorium, with stage and seating capacity of 250 people, the gymnasium and shower rooms, kindergarten rooms, offices, and residents' living quarters. In the annex are domestic science rooms and girls' club rooms.

Some 75 clubs are meeting at the settlement house this winter, including domestic science, social, political, dancing, gymnastic, and welfare clubs. There is close cooperation between Pillsbury House and Seven Corners Branch. We are called upon for lists and club material of all kinds, and we are also given all encouragement in anything we are anxious to do. Bulletins are always posted in conspicuous places, and free access is given us to clubs for library publicity. Miss Belle Mead is now the head resident.

Riverside Chapel.

Riverside Chapel, a well-built, three story structure of red brick, is situated at the corner of Riverside and

20th Ave, So. As its name indicates, it is first and foremost a church, but it fulfills the mission of a community center as well. While it is really Presbyterian its policy has been to have it as nearly interdenominational as possible. The fact that they have as many Catholic funerals as Protestant is indicative of the success of this policy.

Riverside Chapel has, beside its chapel in which religious services are held, about 15 meeting rooms. There is also a good sized swimming tank. Services are held on several evenings a week, and Sunday School on Sunday afternoons. About 50 clubs and organizations, some of which meet regularly and others irregularly, are listed on their calender. These clubs pay a stated monthly fee, not to Riverside but to their own organization, and this sum they are obliged to spend philanthropically. Rev. Wm. E. Paul, the pastor and director of Riverside, said that last year they collected 2800 dollars, from the various organizations, all of which the clubs themselves spent. These organizations include among others, boy and girl scouts, women's aid society, mothers' clubs and parents' clubs. At the parents clubs last year there were large numbers of men and women, their record attendance being 450. The branch librarian has been asked to speak to this club and to the "Intermediate Reading Club" concerning the library. The under age kindergarten, consisting of children not over five years, has an enrollment this fall, four of whom are little Slovaks, the rest Scandinavians. Riverside Chapel has always been most willing to post any lists, bulletins, announcements, etc., of the library in most conspicuous places, and some of the workers have continuously urged patrons there to come to the Seven Corners Branch.

Riverside Ave. Municipal Baths.

A most popular resort in the neighborhood is the Municipal Bath House on Riverside and 22nd Aves. So. As is almost always without exception the rule in public baths, the men and boys are in the greater attendance. Of 52,967 baths taken during the year 1917, 43,319 of these were taken by men and boys. This credits the women and girls with 19 per cent of the total baths taken. The bath house is open to men and boys on Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays of each week, leaving but the two remaining days of the week to the female contingent. It is open from 1 - 9 P. M. during the week, and from 7 - 10 A. M. on Sundays.

The bath house is kept clean and in good condition. A nominal fee is charged. Two cents is charged for the shower, three cents for the shower and pool, and soap and towel is supplied for an additional two cents. Suits, well sterilized, can be rented for five cents. 43, 627 five cent baths were

taken, 3,286 two cent ones, and 5,994 three cent ones. Each bather is permitted to stay in the tank one hour.

There might be mentioned in connection the South Side Bath House at 1220-3rd. St. So. This is a small, private place run by a Roumanian. Fees here are for the regular tub bath 25 cents, and for the steam bath 50 cents. These fees in this neighborhood seem prohibitive, but it is regularly and fairly well patronized. The proprietor told the branch librarian that the people in his country were used to vapor baths, and considered them not only a necessary measure for cleanliness but one for health as well. The place is dark and rather illy ventillated but seemed clean.

Picture Shows.

There are three picture shows in the Seven Corners district. They are,

The Southern, 1420 Washington Ave. So.

New Ione Theatre, 313 Cedar Ave.

Grand View Theatre, 406 Cedar Ave.

The admission of all three of these movies is five and ten cents and all are well attended. The pictures, while fairly melodramatic as most of our movies are, are no worse than those to be found in our down town houses; in fact, the Seven Corners people will get the same attractions as those offered down town if they only wait long enough, the films themselves probably being a little the worse for wear. At the Southern, Friday night has the extra "attraction", a very dubious one be it admitted, of being amateur night. It is a most popular night and local favorites appear again and again. The favorite acts, it is to be feared, are not the most artistic or the most to be commended. Some of our boys and girls take part to the extent of little acts, and some of the most ambitious even write scenarios, one or two of which have been accepted.

BOOK STORES.

There are three book stores in the district, not including the few scattered stores of different kinds, which keep as a side line a very small stock of novels and juvenile books of the cheapest kind. The three stores are,

Free Church Book Concern, 322 Cedar Av.

F. Benson, Book Store, 1225 Washington Ave.

C. Mackeprang, Book Store, 229 Cedar Av.

Of these three stores the Free Church Book Concern is the most important and of the best standard. This is the publishing house of the Luther Free Church, and the majority of its business is mail order. While there is a collection of Swedish books, they specialize in Danish and Norwegian literature. All the books used by the Augsburg Seminary are furnished by this store.

Although there is little local trade, its history is quite interesting. Mr. Hain who has been there for many years tells of the many requests in past years for the works of Waldemar Creel, who published translations of the very lowest type. These deplorable books had been circulated in the saloons freely, until later confiscated by the government. When requests came for this sort of book, Mr. Hain substituted books of not much value, but no harm, and substituted them successfully. Gradually he persuaded the people to take better books, much as the librarian tries to do. His stock of books is now much above the average of the book stores hereabouts. There are a few Algers in the window, which however are being sold out and are not to be replaced, and a few books of Mary J. Holmes and Mrs. Southworth. To offset these are many standard books in 25 cent editions, books such as Scott, Dumas, Elliot, and Hugo.

Mr. P. Benson does not depend entirely on the sale of books for his livelihood, but has various side-lines as well. Most of his books are Scandinavian, there being but a few English and those religious. His largest stock of books is Swedish, among them many novels of fairly high standard. His Norwegian books, of which his sale is not large, consist mostly of religious books, and the greatest sales of these consist of Norwegian Bibles.

The third bookstore, that of Mr. C. Mackeprang, is housed in the same little room as the branch post-office. Many foreigners come in here, for it is here that many have their mail directed. The whole collection consists almost entirely of paper backed books of about 25 or 35 cents. Almost all of them are novels. Like Mr. Benson, Mr. Mackeprang sells mostly books in the Swedish language. There is a fairly large collection of Norwegian and Danish books but these do not sell so readily. The English books consist of cheap novels of the Mrs. Southworth

type and lurid juvenile books, not the least conspicuous of which is the history of the James boys. There are also such books as "How to write a letter", "Lessons in etiquette", and many copies of Bob Ingersoll's lectures.

As a result of these sensational, melodramatic books being sold so cheaply, almost all of the children who come to Seven Corners Branch own at least one which they have been given on Christmas or birthdays. This pernicious influence is felt by the library assistant trying to satisfy the demands of the boys and girls. It has been suggested to the booksellers that they vary their stock of books somewhat. Mr. Hain has been accomodating in this matter, asking for suggestions of titles to take the place of lower standard books.

PAPERS PUBLISHED.

There are four Norwegian newspapers published in this ward and two Swedish ones. Three of these are weekly, and three are semi-weekly. Two of these are donated to the branch, but copies of the others usually find their way to the reading room tables. The Norwegian papers are:

Bud og Hilsen	Weekly
1407 Washington Av. So.	S. S. Turnheim Pub. Co.
Folkebladet	Weekly
322 Cedar Av.	Folkebladet Pub. Co. I. A. Hain, ed.
Gaa Paa Socialist	Weekly
2301 Riverside Av.	Mengshoel & Devold Pub. Co.
Samband	Semi-weekly.
322 Cedar Av.	Samband Pub. Assoc.
Swedish papers.	
Forskaren	Semi-weekly.
1119 Washington Av. So.	Forskaren Pub. Co.
Missionstidningen	Semi-weekly
1225 Washington Av. So.	Rev. J. C. Olsen, Ed. & mgr.

No advertising has been done in these papers recently. We have so few Scandinavian books that we barely supply the demands of our readers, and feel it would be unfair to advertise wares, for which we already have sufficient patronage. So many of the Scandinavians living in this neighborhood go to Franklin Branch, attracted by the larger and newer collection of books in their own tongue.

INDUSTRIES.

The southwestern part of the Sixth Ward is fairly free of manufacturing plants and industries, but the northern, northwestern and northeastern parts are closely dotted with them. From the lower flats all along the river to 10th Av. So. they usurp the places of residents almost entirely. Not only have we a small industrial center of our own, but we skirt upon the big mill center to the north and northeast. Many of the men who do the temporary work and the unskilled work at the mills reside in the neighborhood of Seven Corners.

There are numerous very small industrial concerns and manufacturing houses, taking up one or two rooms in obscure places and second floors. The following list does not pretend to contain all such concerns, but does contain all those that are of fairly good size.

Melone-Bovey Lumber Co.	1228 So. 4th St.
South Side Lumber Co.	1100 So. 3rd St.
Simons Bros. Mfg. Co. (Sash, doors etc.)	1729 So. 7th St.
Berger Mfg. Co. (Bldg. material & vacuum cleaning)	300 So. 10th Av.
Standard Wood Working Mfg Co.	401 So. 12th Av.
Landers-Morison-Christenson Co. (Lime & cement)	11th Av. & 2nd St. So.
N. W. Roofing, Cornice & Stamping Works.	1113 So. 5th St.
Patent Vulcanite Roofing Co.	1000 Washington Av. So.
Barrett Co. Roofing Material.	1 So. 19th Av.
Twin City Machinery & Supply Co.	1627 So. 7th St.
Marvel Machine Co.	1300 So. 3rd St.
Enterprise Machine Co.	1114-1118 So. 3rd St.
Minneapolis Gas Light Co.	Foot of 14th Av. So.
Kelly & Co., Plumbing, Heating & ventilating	
Leighton-Campbell, Coal, Coke, Wood. Yd. No. 3	1401 So. 5th St.
City Fuel Co.	12th Av. So. & 2nd St.
Indian Refining Co.	1 Cedar Av.
Pure Oil Co.	1306 So. 1st St.
Minnesota Linseed Oil Co.	1101 So. 3rd St.
Western Auto Sales & Parts Co.	1124 So. 3rd St.
S. R. Sikes Co. Leather Belting.	1030 So. 3rd St.
Nelson Knitting Works.	508 Cedar Av.
Kienzle & Merrick Mfg. Co. (Ornamental iron & brass)	
	1212 So. 3rd St.
	1029 So. 6th St.
	250 10th Av. So.
	1311 So. 5th St.
	123 So. 14th Av.
	1209 So. 4th St.
	1320 So. 6th St.
Coope & Barréll Mfg. Co.	
Bartlett & Co. Cedar & Vinegar.	
G. Hieleman, Brewing Co.	
Purity Brewing Co.	
Jos. Schlitz, Brewing Co.	
Val. Blatz Brewing Co.	

Of these concerns, probably the largest are, Minnesota Linseed Oil Paint Co., Pure Oil Co., Indian Refining co., and the Minneapolis Gas Light Co.

We feel that a very small porportion of the workers in these industries are using the branch. It is true that some of the men in the office come in during the noon hour, and read in the library or take books with them, but the per cent is unsatisfactorily small. The reading element on most of these places is composed of men doing office work or fairly skilled mechanical work, and therefore paid highly enough to live in more desirable parts of the city. These men use the central library or the branches near their homes. It is the men who do the unskilled work or the temporary work who live near us, and too often these men cannot or do not read. We have attempted to fill in those classes of non-fiction books, which would help the men in the work they are doing, and these books are having a fair circulation.

During the summer letters were written to the heads of all the large concerns in the neighborhood. In these letters we asked for information concerning the number and nationality of employees, and if permission would be given granting access to the men, or allowing for some sort of library advertising. From these letters but five answers were received. They were from the Pure Oil Co., Enterprise Machine Co., Patent Vulcanite Roofing Co., Barrett Co., and Minnesota Linseed Oil Paint Co. The Minnesota Linseed Paint Co. said that their employees lived at too great a distance from the library to use it, and were without exception near other branches. The Patent Vulcanite Roofing Co., answer was interesting in so far as it signified that the few men that lived in our neighborhood were Irish. All the other letters said that the employees were Scandinavian. The Irish per cent in the ward is very small. This company volunteered to give us the names and addresses of these few men. The other three of the five mentioned companies were quite cordial. The superintendent of the Barrett Co. said that there were about 20 men employed under him, all of whom were Scandinavians. He said he would have no objection to library advertising of any kind. About 40 men, most of whom are Scandinavians, are employed at the Enterprise Machine Co. This company too, was willing to have us reach the employees in any way we might chose. Mr. Hancock, the president of the Pure Oil Co., wrote that 71 people, 25 of whom are women, are employed in his office and 70 in his warehouse, the predominating nationality in the warehouse being Scandinavian. Mr. Hancock said he would be glad to assist us in any way. We have not yet gone into the factories for various reasons. Most of our extra time during the fall has been given up to school work. During the winter, however, we are anxious to reach some of the men in these factories.

We feel that if the men in the office can be interested in the library, they in their turn will do more to interest the men in the yards.

BREWING HOUSES.

It is interesting to note that in this small ward there are four brewing houses, all of considerable size. If, and I think the trend of events almost justifies my saying when, a prohibition amendment is passed, these four brewing houses and the 54 saloons within our boundaries will have to give place to other, and let us hope, more constructive, industries and businesses. This cannot help but have a big influence on the neighborhood. The amount of intemperance reported by social workers and the school nurse, not to mention the drunken men seen daily in the streets and in our own library, is appalling. Most deplorable of all are the not infrequent instances when liquor is sold in quantities to boys fifteen, sixteen, and seventeen years old.

HOSPITALS.

Three hospitals are located within the precincts of the Sixth Ward. They are:

Fairview Hospital	Swedish	23rd Av. & 6th St. So.
St. Mary's Hospital	Catholic	24th Av. & 6th St. So.
Thomas Hospital	Norwegian	2341 So. 6th St.

All three hospitals are located in a row, overlooking the Mississippi River. All are new, modern buildings with extensive, well-kept grounds. The Thomas Hospital, owing to its nature (for tuberculosis) was not visited.

St. Mary's was visited, but since they are in the process of building and are very busy little came of it. The director signified that later, when the institution was in smoother working order, they would be grateful for books from the library.

At Fairview Hospital the librarian was met with glowing response. They were most eager to have a small collection of books sent over. There are 80 persons on the staff, and 90 to 100 patients. About 50 per cent of both the staff and patients are Swedish. All nationalities are, however, admitted. There are many out-of-town nurses, and it was rather surprising and not reassuring to find out how few of them knew of the existence of the Seven Corners Library. Many of them now have cards and are fairly regular readers. A collection of 50 books, both juvenile and adult, was sent over to the hospital and one of the nurses was appointed librarian. These books she reports most eagerly read. The librarian was careful to ascertain that no contagious diseases were admitted to the hospital before the books were sent over. Most of the cases there are surgical.

CONCLUSION

As a result of this brief going over the ground, it seems to me that two things are evident. First, since our normal population is growing smaller, we shall have to do intensive work if we are to make the library of the greatest possible benefit. It is desirable that all the people living around us shall use the library in some way or other, and that more and more channels shall be used in reaching them. Second, steps should be taken to reach the Slovaks and those people living in the flats and in the territory contingent thereto. Seven Corners Branch has no Slovak books, and yet the enclosed map of nationalities shows that a large percent of Slovaks live near us.

Since the Slovaks have been going to the Baptist mission on Washington Av., many of them will read nothing but the Bible and religious books. It is respectfully suggested that a good collection of Slovak books be centered at the branch, a collection consisting of religious books, biographies, such as that of Hus, histories and a few good books of literature. Two or three prominent Slovak men in the neighborhood have professed themselves willing to assist in the making up of a list, including such books as they think the Slovaks in the neighborhood will read. The above may not be an ideal list for a foreign collection, but since these people must be handled carefully if we are to gain them, it is the sort of a list that might attract them. Once they are in the habit of reading, they may have new books added to their collection without alienating them.

It is earnestly hoped that a collection of Slovak books may be added to Seven Corners Branch in the not distant future. For until we have something to offer, it is useless to go to these people. With the confused and tragic times that are upon us, there is a recognized awakening among all classes and peoples in this country. It seems the psychological time to interest these people in reading, and to aid in the task of Americanizing all those within our gates.

Seven Corners Library Community Study

1924

SEVEN CORNERS LIBRARY

August 1924

General Description of District

Since the last Community Survey was made there have been a few important changes in the district. Of these, the most significant one is the closing of the saloons. To fully appreciate what such change means in a community where every corner was occupied by a saloon one must have known the district before and after the passing of the 18th Amendment.

All of these former saloon buildings are now being used for legitimate business purposes--grocery and confectionery stores, small factories, restaurants, garages, and even missions.

As a result one sees very little poverty. The children are, as a rule, fairly well dressed and few look undernourished.

The part of Minneapolis to which our district belongs was first settled in 1854. Consequently we find many old dwellings in our community, some of them having been occupied by the same families for almost half a century.

The Seven Corners Branch is located in the heart of its district. We find a wide difference in the type of home represented, ranging from the over-crowded, ill-ventilated tenement on Washington Avenue to the well kept home in the residence section on the east side of Cedar Avenue.

In the immediate vicinity of the Library many of the dwellings are built on small, narrow lots, frequently two on one lot, making a crowded, unattractive neighborhood. Riverside, Cedar and Washington Avenues are fairly prosperous business streets. Several new buildings have been erected here in the past few years, the most important of which are Benson's Music Store and Peterson's Drug store. A comfort station has been built on the intersection of Washington and Cedar. The name of this place has been changed from "Seven Corners" to "Washington Square".

Street Car Lines

Six street Car lines pass this intersection making it a busy transfer point. The Library, located only a block away, is easily visited "on a transfer" and some of our patrons make regular use of this convenience, stopping to exchange their books on the way from one part of the city to another.

Paved Streets

Two paved streets pass the Branch and make it convenient for people in automobiles to stop and exchange books. Hence we have books brought in to us from almost every Branch in the system, and we have, as an example, one man who is a regular patron of Walker Branch and Seven Corners.

Business

Almost every variety of business is carried on in our district.

to hotels, boarding houses, and many homes where lodging and board are offered are needed to house the unattached people and transients who live in the Community.

We have in our district 2 large department and several small dry goods stores, 1 large music store, 6 drug stores, the South Side Office of the Northwestern National Bank, 4 knitting factories, 4 mortuaries, 2 lumber yards, 4 oil companies, 7 soft drink factories, 2 creameries, 25 machine shops and foundries, 2 book stores and many other small commercial establishments.

The Branch has endeavored to reach the people of these various business places thru notices in the local paper, by personal visits, and by distribution, both by mail and in other ways of the "Community Bookshelf." Many of the persons employed in the Community, who live in other parts of the city, come to the Library during noon hours.

Two bath houses, one municipal and one private, are located in our district and are well patronized. The municipal bath has a weekly enrollment of over 400.

Schools

The following three grade schools are located near the Branch:

Jackson, 22 teachers, 528 pupils. This school is the center for the deaf children of the city and has 7 special teachers and about 65 pupils in this department.

Clay School has an enrollment of 678 pupils and 18 teachers. Only the first six grades are taught in this school.

The Peabody School has 4 regular class rooms, and 3 special classes for mentally retarded children. Total enrollment 187 and 8 teachers.

The teachers in all of our schools use the Branch during the school year both for their own recreational reading and for class room work. Frequently assignments are sent to the Library ahead of time so material can be in readiness for the pupils.

The Danish Bible Institute is a training school for teachers and missionaries. This institution draws students from all over the U.S. and even from the Scandinavian countries. As the greatest number of students attending are from small towns and rural districts and never have had library privileges, they are a little diffident about applying for cards; but with the help of the teachers we have succeeded in making regular patrons out of many of them and they come to the Branch for much of their reference work. The enrollment is about 70.

Augburg Theological Seminary, one of the oldest colleges in the city, is not strictly within our district but on the borderline. It has been changed from a men's seminary to a co-educational

college and academy. It has retained the Theological department. About 200 students attend this school, the majority of them being non-resident. Many of them use both this and the Franklin Branch.

The Humboldt Business College, on Washington Avenue, has an attendance of about 150 students, many of them non-residents. Visits have been made to the school to invite teachers and students to use the Branch and posters have been put on the bulletin board but response has not been very great.

One of the strongest factors in adult education and Americanization in our district is the Jackson Night School. Here between 400 and 500 men and women representing 15 nationalities come 3 nights a week for instruction. There are 5 rooms filled with newcomers, many of them entering night school immediately upon arriving in the city. The majority of these are Scandinavians and Germans, but one room is composed only of Slovaks. Regular elementary school subjects are also taught to adults who were deprived of their education during childhood and in the class preparing for high school, 20 were enrolled last school year. The night school also fills a place in the social life of its students and frequently parties are given where American customs are impressed upon them by their teachers. The Branch has given much time and thought in its attempt to reach these interesting people and we hope we have succeeded at least in convincing them of our friendliness and desire to serve them. Talks have been given, by the Branch librarian and her assistants, both to day and night schools, and registration for library cards has been taken regularly.

Newspapers

"The South Side Weekly" is the only newspaper published in our district. It has been very accommodating to the library and has frequently given space to notices about the Branch. We also receive complimentary copies of the paper. Two small Norwegian and the same number of Swedish, religious papers are published in the district. These are not adapted to any advertising. The Branch also receives complimentary copies of these.

Clubs

Besides the "Ladies Aids" connected with the various churches, there are 3 women's clubs in our district. These are all connected with Pillsbury House and hold their meetings there. The Branch has co-operated by keeping in touch with them and supplying whatever books they could use. They are not study clubs, however, but concern themselves chiefly with Civic and philanthropic activities. One commercial club, poorly organized, is the only society of its kind in our district. Its main purpose seems to be the maintenance of club rooms over one of the store buildings, where business men of the community may spend noon hours etc. Billiard Tables, lounging room and dining service are supplied. Copies of the "Community Bookshelf" have been placed in these club rooms.

Hospitals

The following hospitals are located in our district:

St. Marys Catholic, the largest, numbering 250 beds.

Fairview Lutheran, 150 beds.

Thomas, for Tuberculosis patients, 65 beds.

A number of the nurses from Fairview used our Branch before the Library Hospital service went into effect.

Churches and Missions

The Seven Corners district numbers the following churches:

Ebenezer Norwegian Lutheran, 150 members.

First Slovak Baptist, 125 members.

St. Ansgarius Swedish Episcopal, 250 members.

St. James Colored M. E., 165 members.

St. Pauls Norwegian Lutheran, 125 members.

Scandinavian Free Church, 200 members.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Catholic is the largest church with a membership of 900, mostly Bohemians. This church has recently erected a beautiful new building. Besides the church proper it has gymnasium and hall for social gatherings. Some of the pastors of these churches use the library quite regularly, but a number of them live in other parts of the city and probably use the Branch near their homes.

Of missions in our district the largest and most active is the "Childrens Gospel Mission" located on Washington and 14th Avenues. It has an enrollment of about 400 children, representing almost every nationality in the district. It is open day and night during the winter with its many clubs, large Sunday School, Gospel meetings and welfare work. In the summer hundreds of children and tired mothers are given a ten-day outing at the summer camp owned by the mission.

"The Apostolic Faith" and a colored mission are also located on Washington Avenue. Since the last survey was made the Swedish Branch of the Salvation Army has built a fine new building for its work in our community.

Riverside Chapel, a branch of the Westminster Church is also an active force among the young people and children of the district. Besides a Sunday School with an enrollment of about 400, a Ladies Aid, Christian Endeavor and other religious activities, many clubs, basket ball teams etc. are supported by this institution. It has a regular pastor in charge and several paid workers.

Settlement Houses

Pillsbury House, located two blocks from the Library, is one of the busiest spots in our community. Here 10 regular workers and 40 volunteers thru clubs, classes, parties, employment bureau, summer camps and various other activities reach out to the young people and children of the district. A day nursery is also maintained to take

care of the youngest children of mothers who are obliged to do day work away from home. A very friendly spirit of co-operation has at all times existed between Pillsbury House and the Library.

The second noticeable change in our district is the moving in of a larger negro population. During the past few years there has been a decided increase in the colored element of this district, and, as the Jews have moved nearer Franklin Avenue, the negroes have filled their places. The Jewish Church, next to the Branch Library, was sold to the St. James Colored M. E. three years ago and this established a Negro center in our neighborhood. One of the results of this is the opening of a "Colored Womens Home and Service Center" on 15th Avenue between 3rd Street and Washington. The announcement cards stated "for social gatherings of any kind, afternoons or evenings, children's parties, mother's meetings, young peoples gatherings and club meetings." Rooms and board are also offered to unmarried working women. It is undenominational but is under the direction of a colored minister and his wife.

Dance Halls

Scattered thru our district we have 8 dance halls. Among them are some of the most notorious places of their kind in the city. Young people from all over the city attend these dances. Much has been done by various organizations to close some of these public dance halls, but so far they have been unsuccessful.

Pool Halls

Another problem in the district is the large number of pool halls operating with it. 15 such places of evil tempt our young men to spend their leisure time in a manner far from beneficial to them.

Motion Picture Houses

Four of these places operate in the district. The largest, located on Washington Avenue, is an attraction, well ventilated and clean "movie" where the better pictures are shown. The others are small cheap unsanitary places where more sensational pictures may be seen.

Size of district

The district served by the Seven Corners Branch covers an area of 86 blocks. To this may be added the lower river Flats which consist of a few short, narrow streets. With the higher wages and general prosperity among the working class, many of these flat dwellers are moving "up". The fact that the owners of the land are insisting upon getting their rent from the "squatters" has something to do with it. However, many empty houses may be found on the "Flats" now and probably a few years hence this most unique spot in our city will be no more.

Population

According to the last U. S. Census the 6th ward has a population of 15, 469. The latest survey of the nationalities shows the following results: Scandinavians, 4,850; Austrians, 776; Hungarians, 568; Roumanians, 264; Russians, 260; Germans, 239; Canadians, 72; French Canadians, 39; English, 66; Finns, 33; Irish, 164; Bohemians, 191; Jews, 65; Negroes, 646.

The majority of the people belong to the working class, many of them doing day labor. Almost all of the business and professional men who have offices or stores in this district live in other parts of the city.

General Remarks

In a district of such varied population and living conditions the Library problems are numerous and never ending. How to be of real service to the community is our big question. We want all of the people to know the help and joy of books, and we try to fill our shelves with the books most useful to our people. We need books in different languages for the older foreign man and woman and for the newcomer, newspapers and magazines in as great numbers as we can possibly afford, of the better kind, for the many who use our reading room.

For the children we need, first of all, good books and enough of them. Then a trained children's librarian who can guide the children in the reading of these books. Most of our boys and girls depend entirely upon the Library in the development of their reading habits. Hence it is most important to bring them to the library as early as possible.

The material for this survey has been acquired thru personal observation, and access to recent surveys made by other agencies in the district.

Respectfully submitted,

Gunnild Oftedal